

ROBERT SELDEN.

JANUARY 25, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COFFIN, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6495.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6495) entitled "A bill granting an increase of pension to Robert Selden," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass with amendments:

This is a bill enacting that an increase of pension be granted to Robert Selden, who is now receiving a rating of \$12 per month for services as midshipman, United States Navy, in the war with Mexico.

The testimony shows that Mr. Selden is about 72 years old, unable to earn a support, and without any income aside from his pension.

The following petition fully sets forth the reasons upon which the claimant bases his application for relief by special act of Congress:

*To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:*

Your petitioner would respectfully state that, he having served over nineteen years as an officer of the line, in the United States Navy, passing through the various grades to that of a lieutenant of five years' standing, and during that time served in two wars and two war expeditions, viz, in 1841 and 1842, in the Seminole war, on the coast of Florida, in a naval flotilla commanded by Lieut. Commander J. T. McLaughlin, operating along the coast, and penetrating the everglades and swamps with fleets of canoes and cooperating with the Army inland in subduing the Indians, who were plundering and murdering along the coast as well as inland. During 1846 I served in the Mexican War; I served in the war expedition to Japan, under Commodore Perry, and the war expedition to Paraguay, under Commodore Shubrick.

During 1860 I voluntarily resigned my position in the Navy with a clean record, as the records of the Department will show.

In 1863 I was employed in the office of the commissary-general of prisoners, War Department, as a first-class clerk—a position I retained until the close of the war, in 1865. I subsequently served in the Treasury Department and War Department. During my second service in the War Department I was examined and passed by the civil service board, and was promoted to first-class clerk upon the report of the board.

Altogether, my naval and civil service to the Government has covered about forty-four years, as the records of the Departments will show, I think.

In a large reduction of the force in the War Department during 1894 I lost my position, being then over 70 years of age. I have not been able to obtain any employment since.

Besides myself, I have a wife and daughter dependent upon me for support. My only income is \$12 per month, Mexican war pension.

In view of long and faithful service to the Government, I most respectfully request an increase of pension to \$25 per month, and your petitioner would ever pray.

Respectfully submitted.

On naval register borne as—

On civil register borne as—

ROBERT SELDEN. } Identical.  
ROBT. R. SELDEN. }

The following amendments are recommended: In line 5 strike out the words "sometimes called Robert R. Selden;" add after the last word the words "and pay him a pension of twenty dollars per month, the same to be in lieu of his present pension."

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